Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

      1.   (Currently Amended) A multiple exchange instance, comprising:

a plurality of exchanges; and

a common instance for implementing the exchanges, the exchanges sharing a set of common components and each exchange having a respective view having respective unique components, wherein the common instance comprises a database divided into a plurality of sub-schemas, and wherein each of the exchanges is singularly associated with and implemented within a respective one of the plurality of sub-schemas providing a respective partial view of the common instance, wherein the common components enable a trading partner client of the common instance to perform at least one common communication operation collectively for a plurality of the exchanges, and wherein each of the exchanges is allocated to a different trading partnermerchant.

      2.   (Previously Presented) The multiple exchange instance of Claim 1 wherein the multiple exchanges are implemented within the common instance and wherein the common instance facilitates communication between a first exchange of the exchanges and a second exchange of the exchanges.

      3.   (Previously Presented) The multiple exchange instance of Claim 1 wherein the multiple exchanges each have a respective operator, and wherein the multiple exchange instance allows each operator to perform input/output using the common components to perform the input/output for each of the respective multiple exchanges.

      4.   (Currently Amended) The multiple exchange instance of Claim 3 wherein the input/output comprises a collective [[an]] authentication operation for each of the exchanges.

5.   (Currently Amended) The multiple exchange instance of Claim 3 wherein the common input/output comprises a <u>collective</u> catalog content input operation for each of the exchanges.

6.   (Original) The multiple exchange instance of Claim 3 wherein the common input/output comprises a registration operation for each of the exchanges.

7.   (Original) The multiple exchange instance of Claim 1 wherein the multiple exchanges are configured to use communication protocols to communicate with processes external to the common instance.

8.   (Original) The multiple exchange instance of Claim 7 wherein the communication protocol is XML (extensible markup language).

9.   (Original) The multiple exchange instance of Claim 1 wherein the common instance is implemented using a database program running on one or more computer systems.

10.   (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium having stored thereon instructions for causing at least one processor to perform a method for a multiple exchange instance implemented on a server computer system utilizing said at least one processor, the <u>instructions comprising:</u> ~~method comprising the steps of:~~

        a)   <u>instructions for causing said at least one processor to define</u> ~~defining~~ a common instance using a common schema that defines a database;

        b)   <u>instructions for causing said at least one processor to slice</u> ~~slicing~~ the common instance into a plurality of exchanges, wherein the common instance is divided into a plurality of sub-schemas, and wherein each of the exchanges is singularly associated with and is implemented within a respective one of the plurality of sub-schemas providing a respective partial view of the common instance and wherein each of the exchanges is allocated to a different ~~merchant~~ <u>trading partner</u>;

               c)   instructions for causing said at least one processor to implement ~~implementing~~ a common support architecture for the exchanges;

               d)   instructions for causing said at least one processor to implement ~~implementing~~ efficient communication between a first exchange of the exchanges and a second exchange of the exchanges using the common support architecture; and

               e)   instructions for causing said at least one processor to present ~~presenting~~ a custom view of the exchanges to respective operators of the exchanges; and

               f)   instructions for causing said at least one processor to perform, at the direction of a trading partner client of the common instance, at least one common communication operation collectively for a plurality of the exchanges.

        11.   (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 10 wherein the exchanges share a set of common components within the common support architecture and wherein the custom view has respective unique components.

        12.   (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 10 wherein said instructions for causing said at least one processor to implement ~~implementing~~ efficient communication includes implementing the multiple exchanges within the common instance for facilitating communication between the first exchange and the second exchange.

        13.   (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 10, wherein the instructions further comprise: ~~method further comprises the step of:~~
            instructions for causing said at least one processor to perform ~~performing~~ input/output using the common components for each of the multiple exchanges, the input/output performed by the respective operators.

        14.   (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 13 wherein the input/output comprises [[an]] a collective authentication operation for each of the exchanges.

15.   (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 13 wherein the common input/output comprises a catalog content input operation for each of the exchanges.

16.   (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 13 wherein the common input/output comprises a registration operation for each of the exchanges.

17.   (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 10 wherein the exchanges are configured to use communication protocols to communicate with processes external to the common instance.

18.   (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 17 wherein the communication protocol is XML (extensible markup language).

19.   (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 10 wherein said <u>instructions that cause said at least one processor to define comprise instructions that cause said at least one processor to implement</u> <s>defining includes implementing</s> the common instance using a database program.

20.   (Currently Amended) A multiple exchange instance, comprising: a plurality of exchanges; and
        a common database for implementing the exchanges within a common schema, the exchanges sharing a set of common components and each exchange having a respective view having respective unique components, wherein the common schema is divided into a plurality of sub-schemas, and wherein each of the exchanges is singularly associated with and is implemented within a respective one of the plurality of subschemas providing a respective partial view of the common schema, and wherein each of the exchanges is allocated to a different merchant, and wherein the exchanges each have a respective operator, allowing an operator to <u>use the common components to</u> perform <s>input/output using the common components to perform the</s> <u>collective</u> input/output for <s>each</s> <u>a group</u> of the exchanges.

21.   (Previously Presented) The multiple exchange instance of claim 20, wherein the multiple exchange instance provides registration for a group of exchanges simultaneously.